

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 /008 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: EUR/IB/TGMARTIN:BAS

12/12/73 EXT. 22632

APPROVED BY: EUR/IB- ELLWOOD RABENOLD

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R 121835Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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FODAG

THE FOL TEL FROM ROME DATED NOV 26, 1973 TO SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NY IS REPTED:

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 13058

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR FAO

SUBJECT: 17TH FAO CONFERENCE - ADMISSION OF GUINEA - BISSAU
TO MEMBERSHIP

REF: ROME 12939

SUMMARY: BY SECRET VOTE 66 FOR - 19 (US) AGAINST - 20 ABSTENTIONS
CONFERENCE ADMITTED GUINEA-BISSAU TO FAO MEMBERSHIP. EARLIER
VOTE (ROLL CALL) ON WIVING GENERAL RULES TO PERMIT LATE
APPLICATION BE CONSIDERED WAS 72 - 5 (US, BRAZIL, CHILE, PORTUGAL,
SPAIN) - 20. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PLENARY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
GUINEA-BISSAU WAS PRESENTED BY WAY OF THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL
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COMMITTEE. IN ORDER ALLOW CONSIDERATION APPLICATION, WHICH
RECEIVED (NO. 21) FOLLOWING BEGINNING OF SESSION AND NOT 30
DAYS IN ADVANCE AS REQUIRED BY GENERAL RULE XIX OF THE ORGANIZATION,
IT WAS FIRST NECESSARY TAKE VOTE ON WAIVER THIS RULE. SURPRISINGLY,

MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT EARLIER WILLING TO WAIVE RULES TO (A) RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS OF PARAGUAY WHOSE CONTRIBUTION IS SUFFICIENTLY IN ARREARS AND (B) ALLOW ELECTION OF UN-OPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR POST OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, WERE STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF SETTING RULES ASIDE TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION. POSITIONS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, GERMANY, JAPAN, WHICH VOICED OPPOSITION AND GREAT CONCERN WHEN APPLICATION FIRST KNOWN, SOFTENED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE WEEKEND, AS ILLUSTRATION OF THIS, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NATIONS WERE STILL CAUCUSING MINUTES BEFORE MATTER WAS INTRODUCED. THEY FINALLY AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO ABSTAIN ON WAIVER, THEREBY MAKING NO PUBLIC EFFORT OPPOSE APPLICATION.

2. IN INTRODUCING THE ITEM THE CHAIR MOVED TO VOTE IMMEDIATELY ON THE WAIVER. THE U.S. INTERVENED AT THIS POINT TO ASK THAT THE SECRETARIAT PROVIDE FULL DETAILS ON THE "NUMBER OF OCCASIONS" (REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE) ON WHICH EARLIER CONFERENCES HAD WAIVED GENERAL RULE XIX. IN DOING SO THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE OF THE SERIOUS ATTITUDE WHICH THE CONFERENCE TRADITIONALLY HAS TAKEN CONCERNING ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS AND STRESSED THE OBVIOUS REASON FOR THE 30-DAY RULE, I.E. TO PERMIT MEMBERS TO GIVE ADEQUATE STUDY TO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND SEEK CLARIFYING AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

3. THE SECRETARIAT BRIEFLY RESPONDED TO THE U.S. QUERY BY EXPLAINING THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED "NUMBER OF OCCASIONS" WAS REALLY TWO, THE APPLICATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN AND SWEDEN, THE CHAIR ASKED IF THE U.S. WAS SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

4. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDED BY SAYING IT WAS INFORMATIVE BUT NOT REALLY HELPFUL WITH REGARD THE APPLICATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO AFRICA AND ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD AND STATED THE U.S. INTENDED TO MAINTAIN THIS PRINCIPLE. AT THE SAME TIME AND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE RECOGNITION OF NEW STATES, THE U.S. CUSTOMARILY LOOKED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN FACTS BEFORE EXTENDING OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. HE SAID THESE INCLUDE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER A CLEARLY DEFINED TERRITORY AND POPULATION, AND ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THAT TERRITORY AND A CAPACITY TO ACT EFFECTIVELY IN CONDUCTING FOREIGN RELATIONS.

5. TANZANIA THEN RAISED A POINT OF ORDER AND THE CHAIRMAN (ZAMBIA) ASKED THE U.S. TO COMMENT ONLY ON THE PROPOSED WAIVER OF THE RULES. THE U.S. BEING ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, SAID THIS WAS THE NATURE OF HIS REMARKS BUT THAT HE WOULD BE BRIEF. HE EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE U.S. HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED REGARDING QUESTIONS RELATED TO RECOGNITION, IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE

GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THEREFORE WOULD
ABE COMPELLED TO VOTE NO ON A PROPOSAL TO WAIVE THE ORGANIZATION'S
RULES IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE APPLICATION'S CONSIDERATION.

6. THE VOTE BY ROLL CALL WAS THEN TAKEN. THE RESULT WAS 72-5-20.
ONLY THE U.S., BRAZIL, CHILE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN WERE OPPOSED.
THE FOLLOWING ABSTAINED: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, ECUADOR,
FRANCE, GERMANY, HONDURAS, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, KHMER REPUBLIC,
KOREA, LUXEMBOURG, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, PERU,
SWITZERLAND, U.K., AND VENEZUELA. THE FOLLOWING WERE AMONG THE
MEMBERS EITHER NOT PRESENT OR NOT VOTING: BOLOVIA, COLOMBIA,
COSTRA RICA, CYPRUS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
ISRAEL, ELBANON, MALAWI, MAURITANIA, MAURTIUS, NEPAL, NIGER,
POLAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, SAIRE,

7. FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO WAIVE THE RULES, PORTUGAL EXPRESSED
REGRET THAT AFTER HAPPILY WELCOMING FOUR NEW MEMBERS AT THE
OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, THEY WERE NOW BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER
THE APPROVAL OF A STATE WITHOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION, DEFINED
TERRITORY, ETC. NIGERIA SPOKE ON A POINT OF ORDER AS DID MALI
AND GUINEA SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IN BETWEEN THEIR INTERVENTIONS. THE
PORTUGUESE DELEGATE CONTINUED TO QUESTION GUINEA-BISSAU'S ENTITLE-
MENT TO MEMBERSHIP AND CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING REGRET AT WHAT HE
CALLED "THE DISENTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" WHICH HE FELT
"WOULD DISCREDIT OUR ORGAINZATION."

8. THE SECRET VOTE ON MEMBERSHIP THEN TOOK PLACE. IMMEDIATELY
THEREAFTER THE U.K. DELEGATE EXPLAINED IT HAD VOTED AGAINST
BECAUSE OF NON-RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU BUT THAT UK CONTINUED
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TO SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLES.

9. THE RESULTS OF MEMBERSHIP VOTE WERE ANNOUNCED AT THE OPENING
OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION AS: FOR 66, AGAINST 19 (US) AND ABSTEN-
TIONS 20. A LONG PARADE OF CONGRATULATORY AND ANTI-COLONIALIST
SPEECHES WERE PRESENTED BY NIGERIA, GUINEA, CONGO, MOROCCO, CHINA,
KENYA, JORDAN. TANZANIA (WHO SAID CONFERENCE WOULD SOON BE
WELCOMING OTHER INDEPENDENT STATES FROM SOUTH AFRICA), IRAQ,
SENEGAL, JAMAICA, ZAMBIA, LESOTHO, SYRIA, SIERRE LEONE, SUDAN,
PERU, CUBA AND MALI.

10. COMMENT: GUINEA-BISSAU APPLICATION AT PRESENT SESSION
OBVIOUSLY TOOK SOME COUNTRIES BY COMPLETE SURPRISE AND THEY
WERE CAUGHT WITH SOMEWHAT GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS. IF ANYTHING,
POSITIONS TENDED TO WAFFLE OVER WEEKEND AS CAPITALS WERE CONSULTED.
AT NO TIME DID THERE APPEAR TO BE ANY REAL OPPORTUNITY OF BLOCKING
EITHER PROPOSAL. DELEGATIONS GENERAL VIEW IS THAT WE TOOK
CONSTRUCTIVE IF NOT SUCCESSFUL APPROACH WHICH GAINED RESPECT
FOR U.S. IN FAO AND WITH MORE RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS. THIS FEELING
SOMEWHAT SUPPORTED BY FACT U.S. MENTIONED IN ONLY ONE OF NUMEROUS

SPEECHES WHICH LATER WELCOMED GUINEA-BISSAU. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, FOOD ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE242921
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/IB/TGMARTIN:BAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcekfw.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 12939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 17TH FAO CONFERENCE - ADMISSION OF GUINEA - BISSAU TO MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: EAGR, FAO
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005